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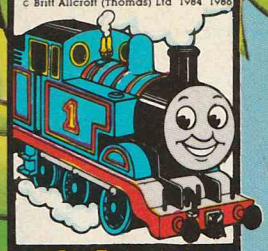


25th June 1988
No 18 35p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Don't worry Thomas!

It's only Harold the Helicopter!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!

Peep! Peep! Do you like Harold the helicopter? What whirly great arms he has! In this issue Harold is a nuisance, and rather boastful – so Percy and his Driver plan a surprise for him. Can you guess what it is? The story begins on the next page!

DON'T MISS OUT!

Sold out at the newsagents? Be sure of your copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight by having it sent straight to your home. It only costs £9.00 for a **year's subscription, and you become an automatic member of the Thomas Club** at the same time! Details are on page **18**!

FACT FILE:

Trevor the Traction Engine

Trevor is a very old engine who worked very hard when he was younger. He still hates to be left out of things and likes having a chance to show that he can still be a Really Useful Engine. These days, though, what he likes best is dozing in the sun or giving rides to children.

Lift Off!

Something very exciting is happening on our mural page in this issue. What can it be? A rocket? Turn to our centre pages to find out!

JOIN WITH TOKENS!

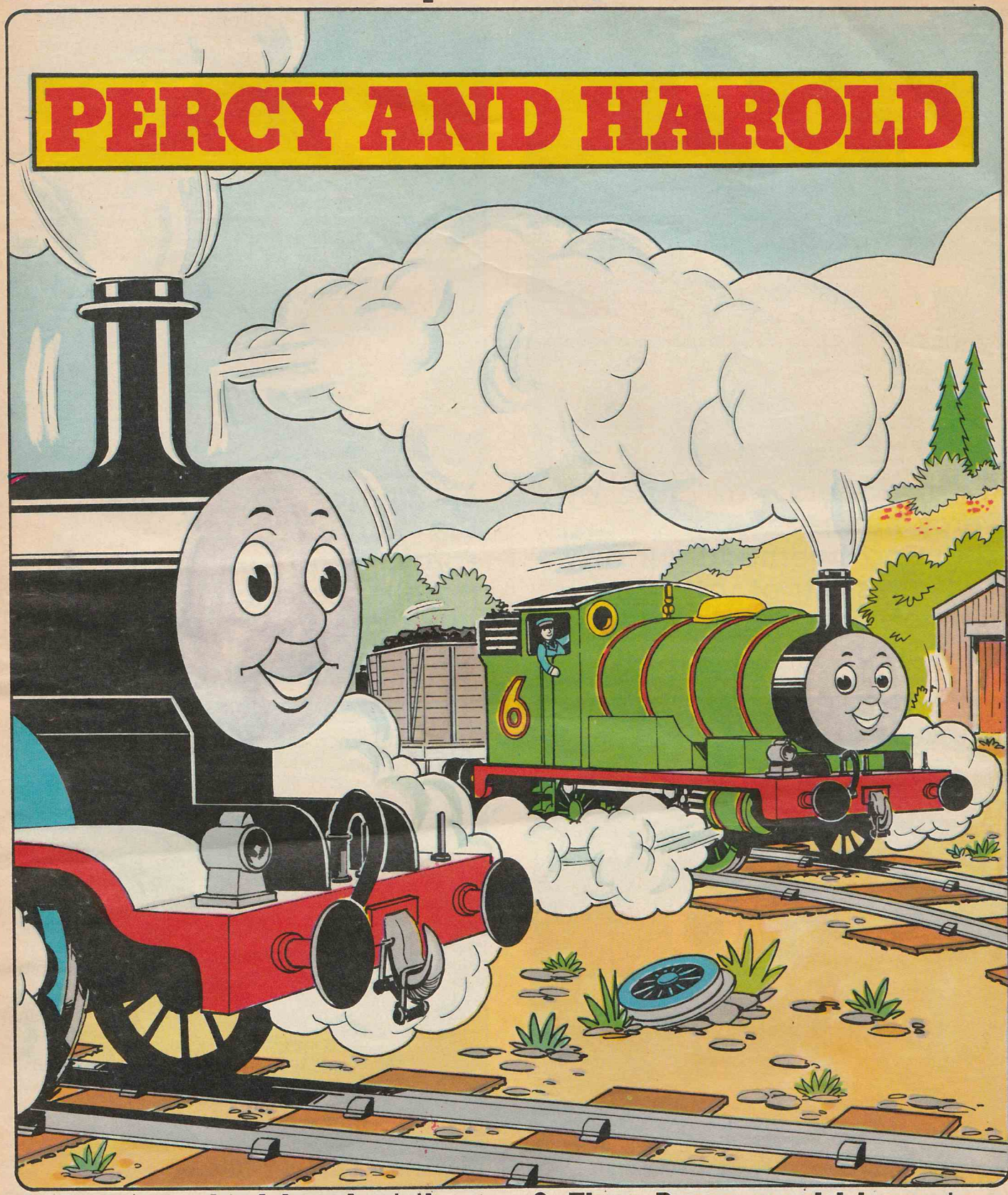
If you do not wish to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, here's **another** way to join our Club. Just send **3** tokens, one **red**, one **yellow** and one **green** – like the one at the bottom of the page – together with a self-addressed envelope (21cm x 16cm) with an **18p** stamp, to: *The Thomas Club (Tokens), Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.* You will receive your splendid **Club Pack** like the one pictured on page 18!

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

THOMAS TOKEN

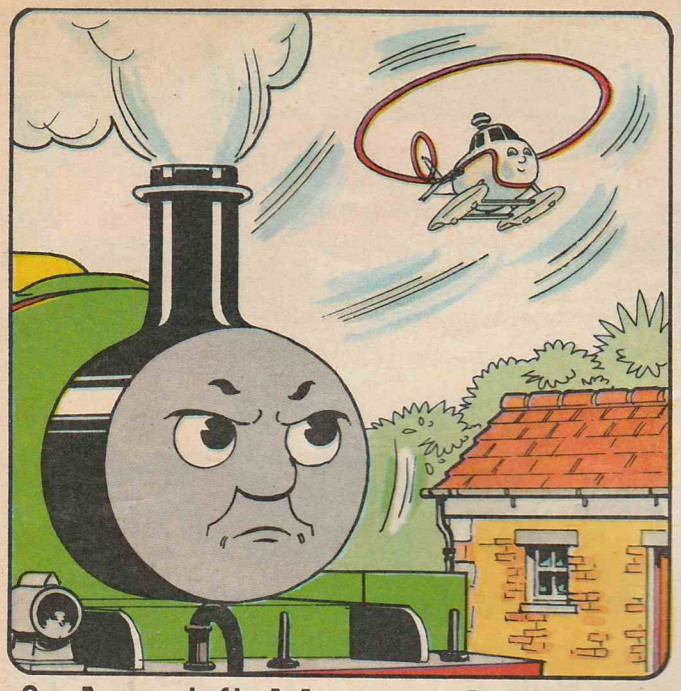
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS LTD. a New World Entertainment Company. Arundel House, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3ED. All THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS material copyright © William Heinemann Limited 1988 copyright © Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited 1988. All rights reserved. No similarity between any names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in England. Distributed by Comag

A listen and look story!

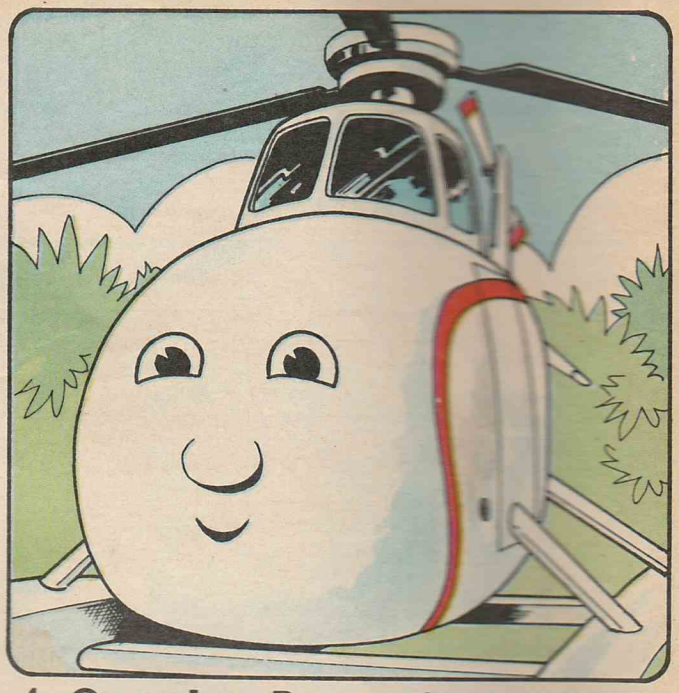


1. Percy worked hard at the new harbour. The workmen needed stone for building. Toby helped, but sometimes the loads of stone were too heavy for him.

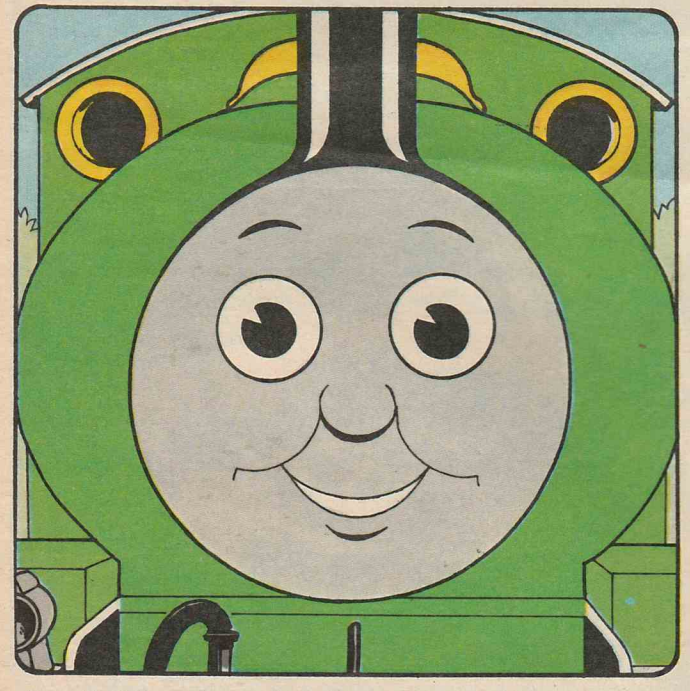
2. Then Percy would have to fetch them. Sometimes Percy would meet Thomas. "Well done, Percy," Thomas would say. "The Fat Controller is very pleased with us."



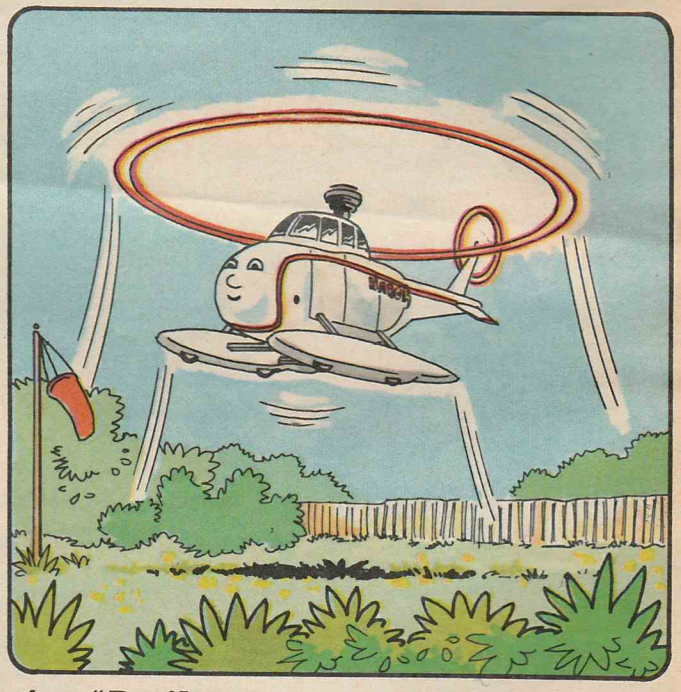
3. An airfield was close by. Percy heard the aeroplanes zooming overhead all day. The noisiest of all was a helicopter. "Stupid thing!" said Percy. "What a noise!"



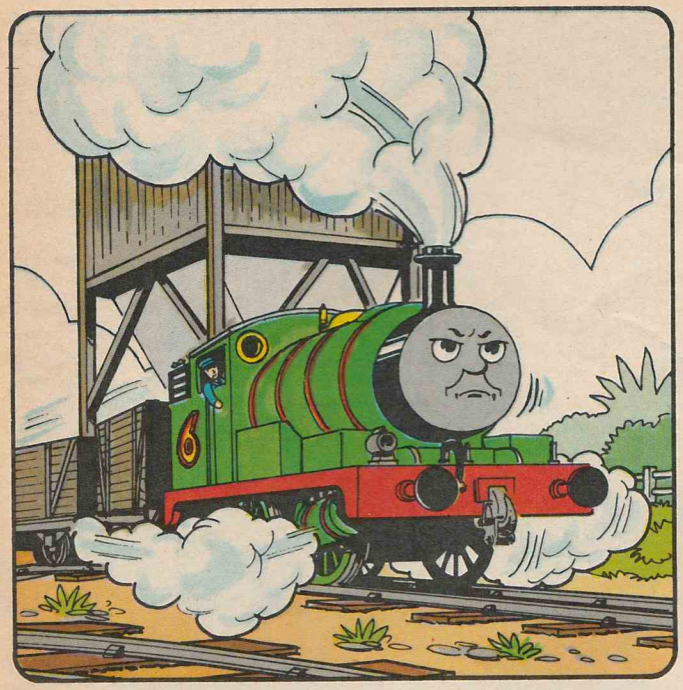
4. One day Percy stopped at the airfield. "Hullo!" said Percy. "Who are you?" "I'm Harold," said the Helicopter. "Who are you?" "I'm Percy," Percy replied.



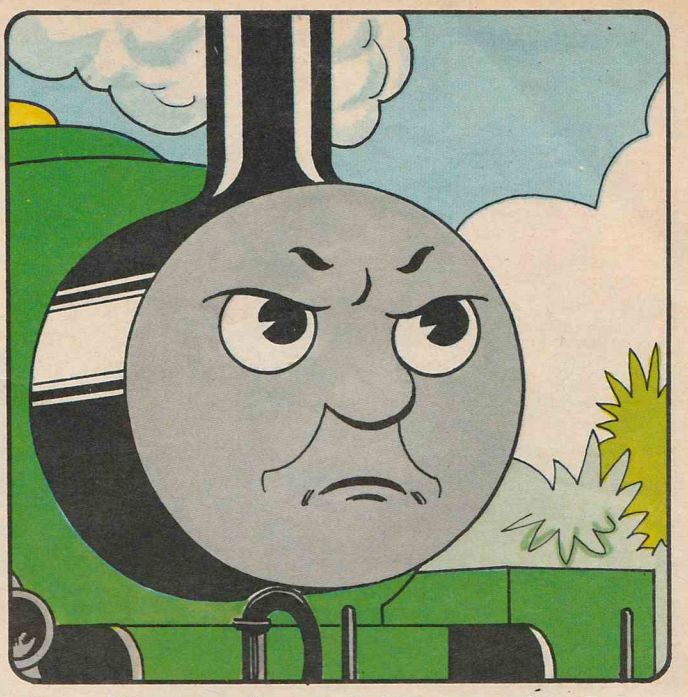
5. "What whirly great arms you've got," said Percy. "I can hover like a bird," said Harold. "Don't you wish you could?" "No, I don't," said Percy. "I like my rails."



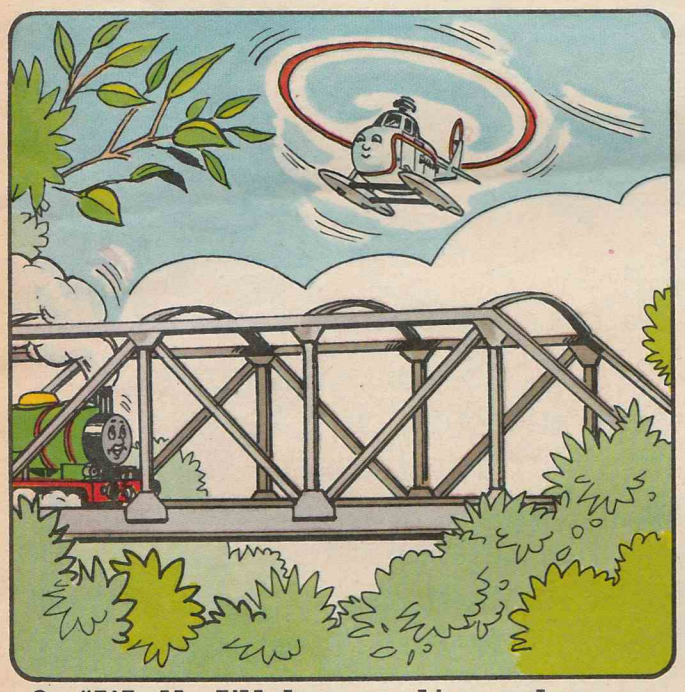
6. "Railways are slow and quite out of date," said Harold. He whirled his arms and buzzed away. "Slow and out of date, indeed!" Percy grumbled, "I'll show him!"



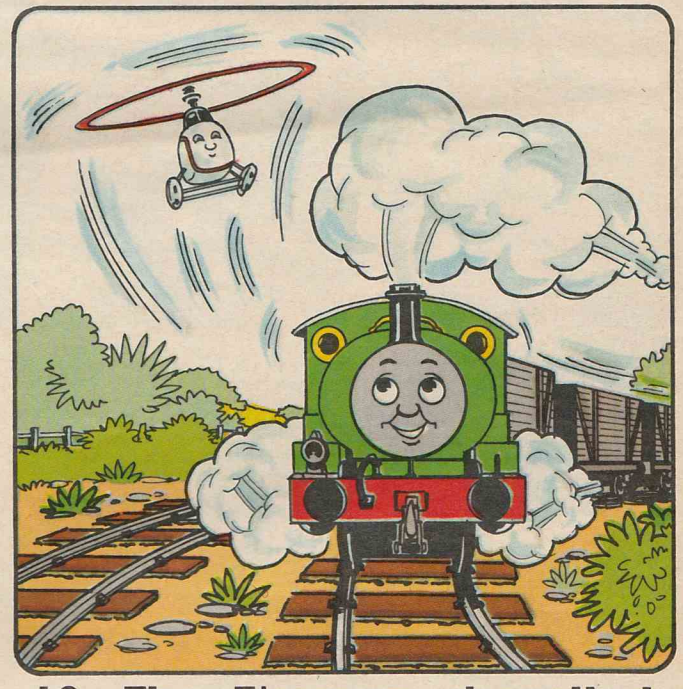
7. Percy was still fuming when he collected his trucks at the quarry. He started off. Soon he heard a familiar buzzing. It was Harold and he was not far ahead.



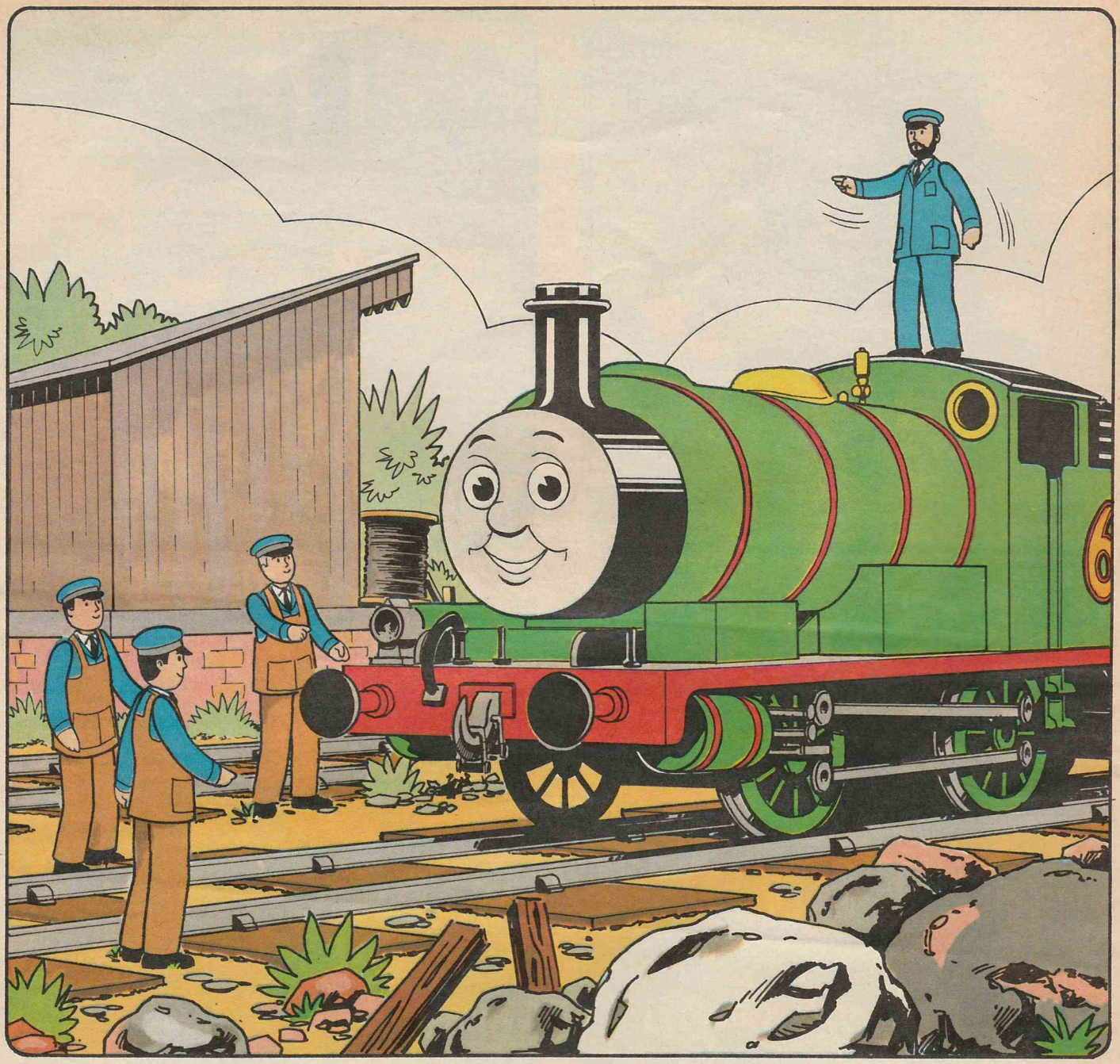
8. "Percy," whispered his Driver. "Let's race him." "Yes, let's," said Percy. Percy pounded along and the trucks screamed and swayed. The race was on.



9. "Well, I'll be a ding-dong-danged!" said Percy's Driver. There was Harold. "Go it, Percy!" he yelled. "You're gaining!" Percy had never been run so fast before.



10. The Fireman shovelled for dear life. Percy was bucketing along, and Harold was high alongside. "Well done, Percy," shouted his Driver. "We're going ahead!"



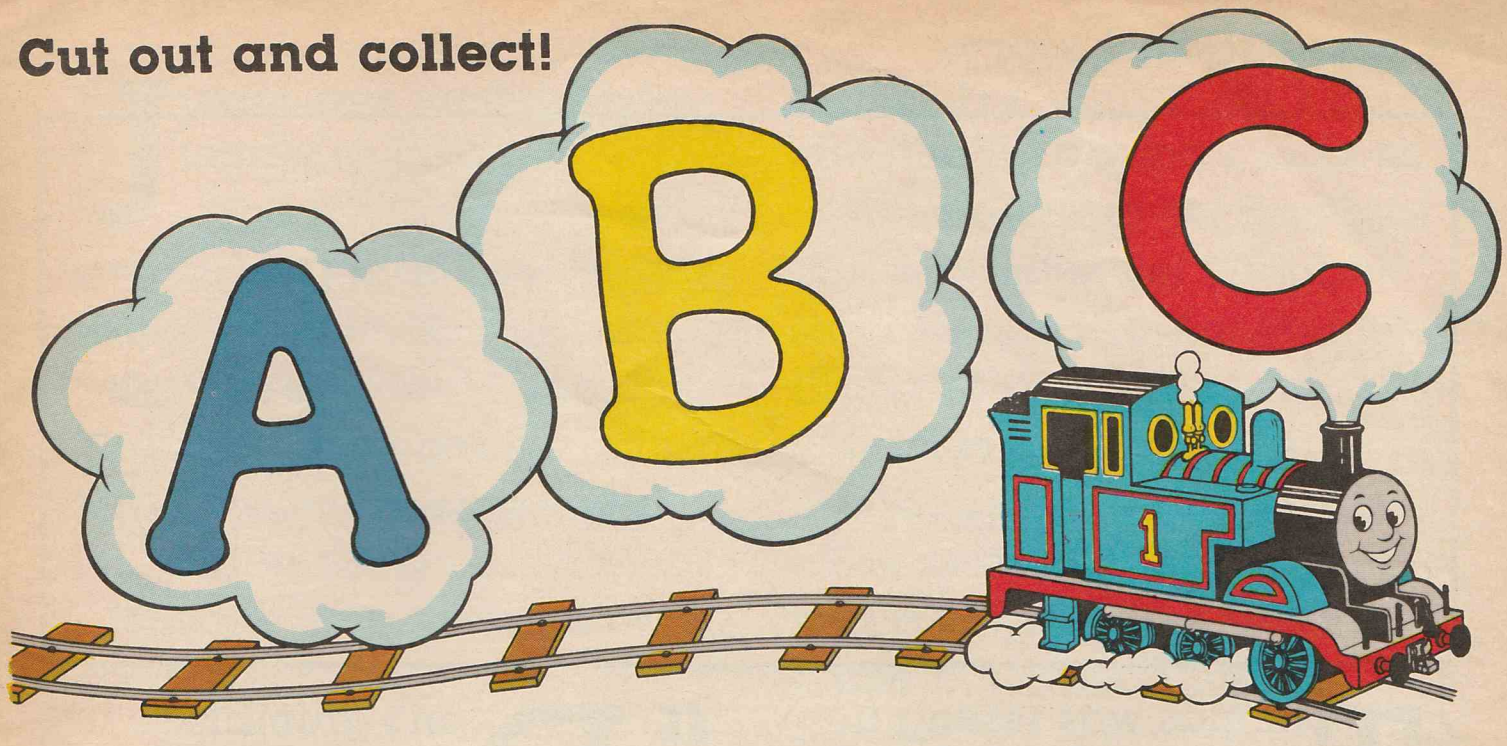
11. A 'distant signal' warned them that the harbour wharf was near. "Peep, peep! Brakes, please!" whistled Percy. The Driver carefully checked the train's headlong speed and they halted on the wharf. "Oh dear!" groaned Percy. "I'm sure we've lost." The Fireman scrambled to the cab roof. "We've won! We've won!" he shouted.

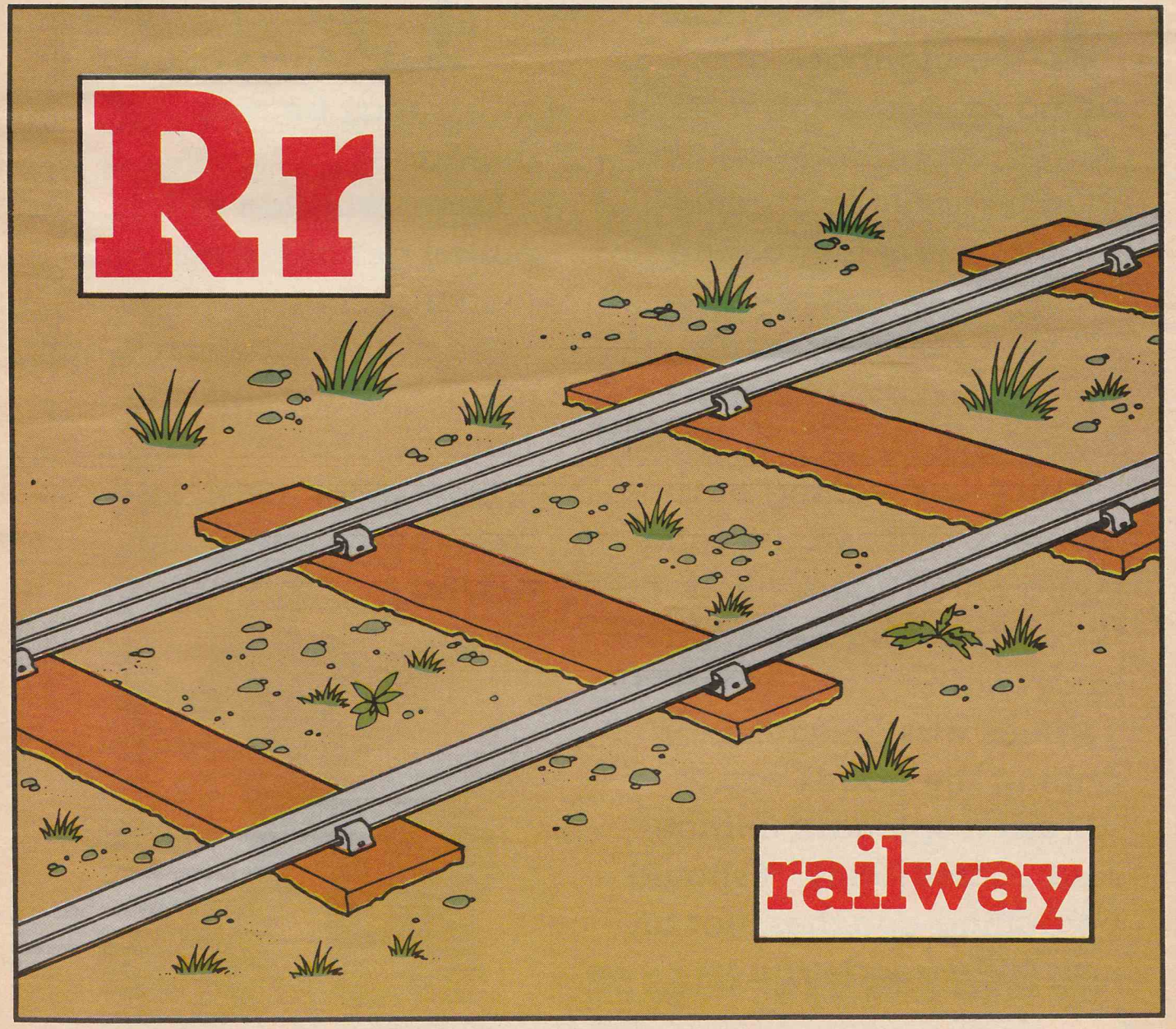
12. "Harold's still hovering. He's looking for a place to land!" The Fireman began to sing. *"Said Harold Helicopter to our Percy, 'You are slow! Your railway is out of date and not much use you know.' But Percy with his trucks, did the trip in record time. And we beat the helicopter on Our Old Branch Line."* Percy was very happy.

THE END

In our next issue: Percy takes the plunge!

Cut out and collect!





A read-aloud story!

Thomas takes the mail

Thomas was resting in the shed. He watched the mailbags of letters being loaded on to a goods van. The mailbags would then be taken to another station where they would be collected by the post van.

"I wish someone would send me a letter," sighed Thomas.

Henry was waiting outside his shed. "Who would send you a letter?" he scoffed. "You're nothing but a little tank engine."

James was given the job of pulling the goods van.

"I am a splendid engine." said James loftily. "I should be pulling coaches, not an ugly little goods van."

"Don't grumble," said his driver. Some of these letters may be very important."

James whistled rudely, and pulled out of the station, muttering to himself.

The station master ran on to the platform calling to James.

"**Stop! Stop!**" he shouted. "You've left a mailbag behind."

James was muttering too loudly to hear.

The Fat Controller was very cross. "I shall have words with James when he returns."

He walked over to Thomas. "The mail must get through. Mrs Kyndley is expecting a letter from her grandson."

"I'll take it, sir," said Thomas eagerly.

Annie and Clarabel were coupled to Thomas. The mailbag was loaded on board.

"Come on, Thomas," said his driver. "We will see James on the main line and hand over the mailbag."

Thomas puffed off as fast as he could.

They caught up with James on the brow of Gordon's hill. James was in trouble.

"Help, help," wheezed James. "I've overheated! I can't move."

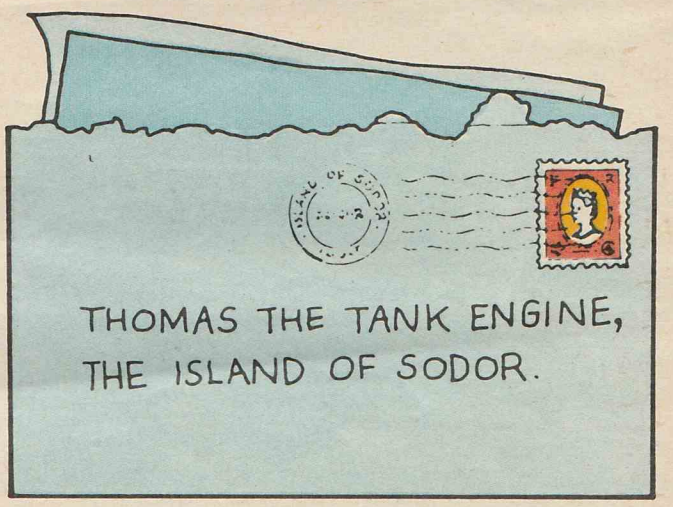
"That will teach you to grumble," said his driver. "Now Thomas will have to deliver the letters for us."

Thomas pulled into a siding. The goods van was coupled up behind Clarabel.

"The mail must get through! The mail must get through!" sang Thomas, to Annie and Clarabel.

Thomas delivered the mailbags safely and on time.

The next morning Thomas had a surprise. The postman came to the shed and handed his guard a letter.

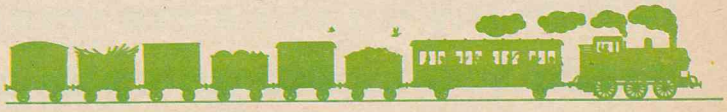


letter

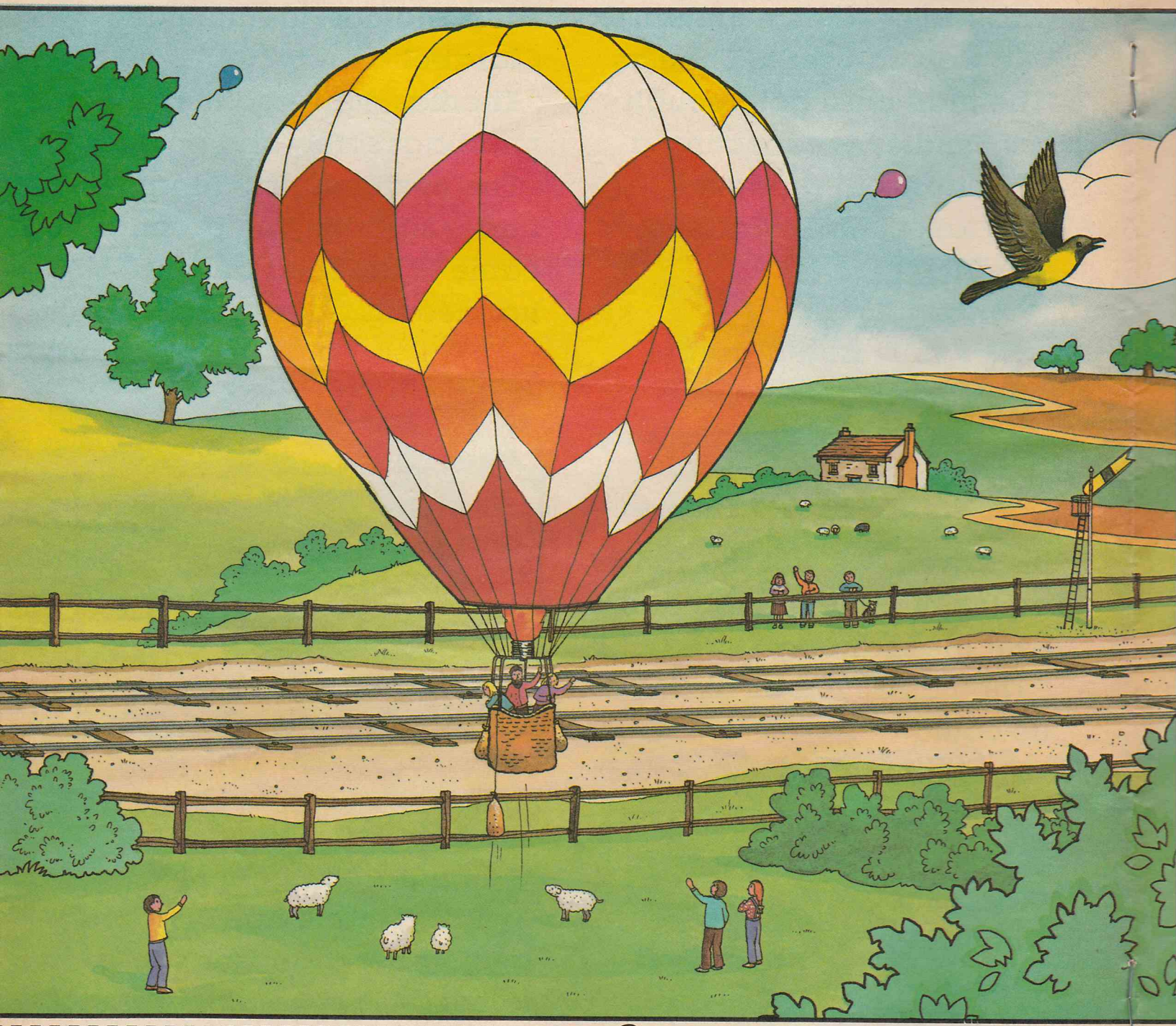
"It's for you, Thomas," said the guard. "It's from Mrs Kyndley, thanking you for getting her grandson's letter to her."

Thomas smiled. "I've got a letter – of my very own."

THE END



Lift off!



What is lifting off into the air?

How many people are aboard?

How many animals are underneath them?

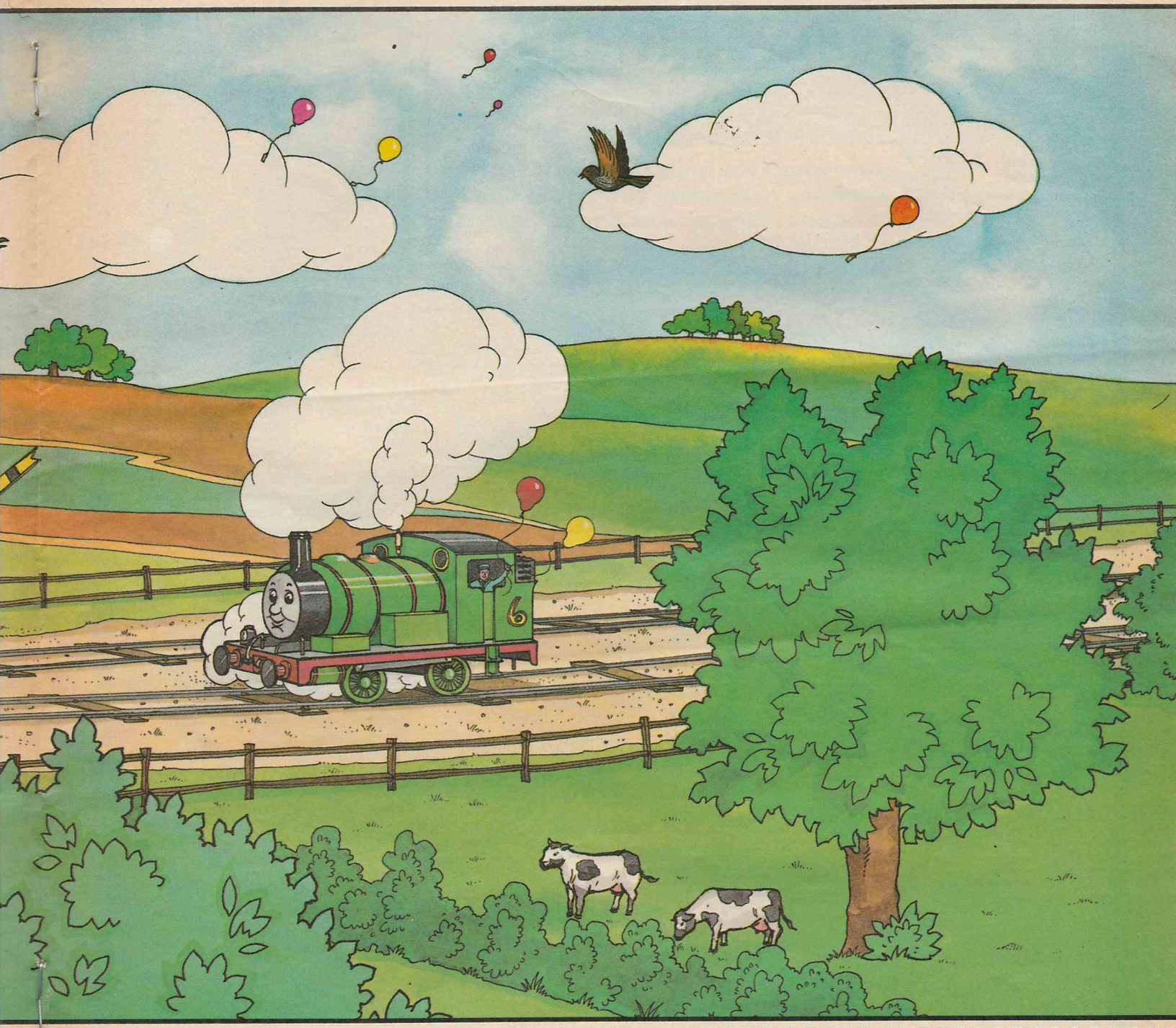
Would you like to go up in a balloon?

Which engine

What number i

Is the signal u

How many bird



gine can you see?
nber is he?
nal up or down?
y birds are flying?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next: Over the viaduct!

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller

My mummy tells me my teeth are railway tracks for Thomas the Tank Engine and I have to keep them nice and clean so I brush them a lot.

Love from **Michael**, aged 4.

I am sure your teeth must be very clean and shiny – just like the tracks on my railway!

Michael wins a **Thomas the Tank Engine egg cup**, from *Wedgwood.*

MISSED MAGAZINES!

Dear Fat Controller,

I know you have no more copies of issues 1 to 8 of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. If any of your readers have them, and do not want them, please could they send them to me?

Love from **Kelly Brown**.

If any one would like to help Kelly, please send their magazines to me and I will send them on to her!

MY FAVOURITE!

Dear Fat Controller,

I have a jumper with Thomas on the front and I like to wear it **every** day. So my Mummy has to do a lot of washing!

Love, **Alexander**, aged 2.

I have much the same problem with my favourite yellow waistcoat. It has to be dry cleaned, you know, and really costs me a fortune.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our best birthday wishes go to: **Christopher Smith, Simon McEvansoneys, Benjamin Williams, Robert Hockley, Max Williams, Ben Sutherland, Liz Arnold, Robert Sadler, James Lloyd, Claire Haper, Gina and Jennifer Craig, Graeme Redfern, Timothy and Jonathan Butters, Christopher Keens, Fionnah and Alasdair Gaw, Gregory Walker, Matthew Styles, Timothy Hunter, Gary Burke, Simon Girling, Denise Roper, Karen Gulliford, Michael McKenna, James Burrell, Gareth Edwards, Richard Flint, Jonathan Morris, Scott Morton, Edwin Walliker, Paul Jones, Erik Chapman, Brian Cordiner, Lee Morrell, Steven Llewelyn, Ian Lane, Kerry Beaumont, Lee Cardwell, Lee Watts, Paul Davies, Helen Langley, Gemma Haile, Neil Morris, Jamie Walledge, James Ive, Sacha de Lastic, Glyn Fox, Simon Appleby, Wayne Simmons, Christopher Langham, David Clayton, David Woods** and special belated wishes go to **Hariklia Heristanidis!**

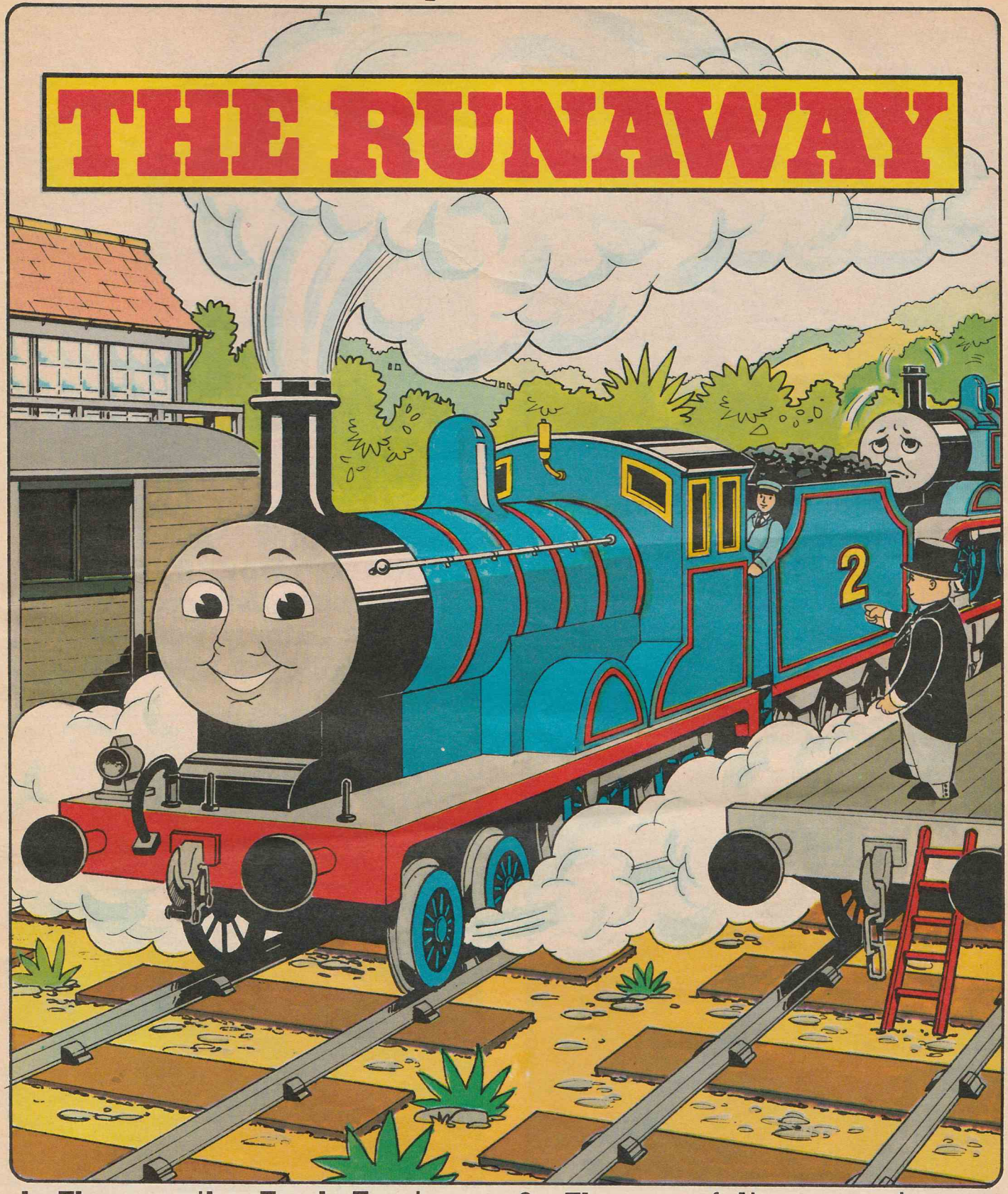
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller.

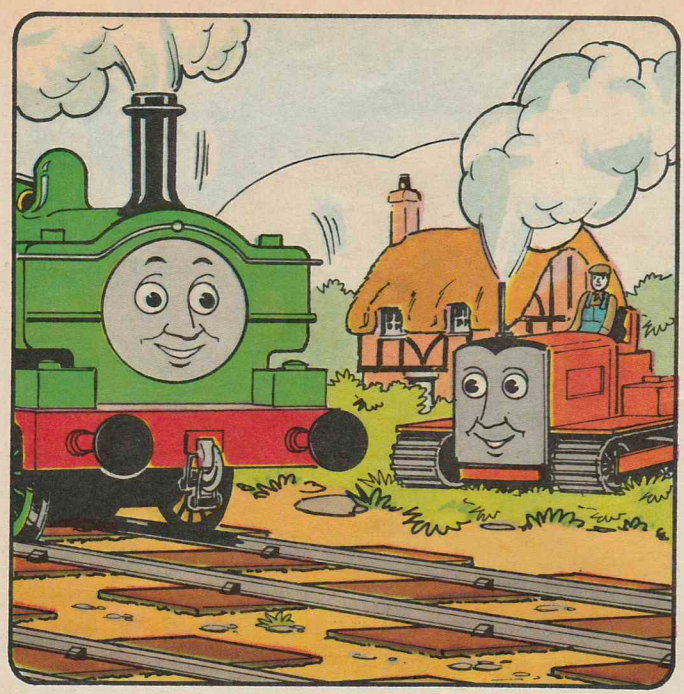
Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

A listen and look story!

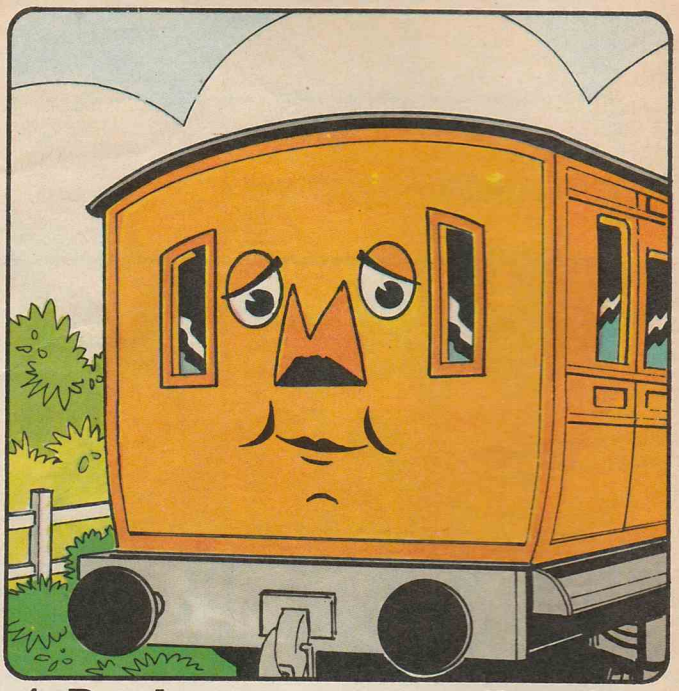


1. Thomas the Tank Engine was ill. Workmen had tried to make him better, but it was no use. "Edward must take you to the works," said the Fat Controller.

2. Thomas felt very miserable. Then the Fat Controller spoke to Duck. "I want you to help Percy and Toby while Thomas is away." Duck was very pleased to be asked.

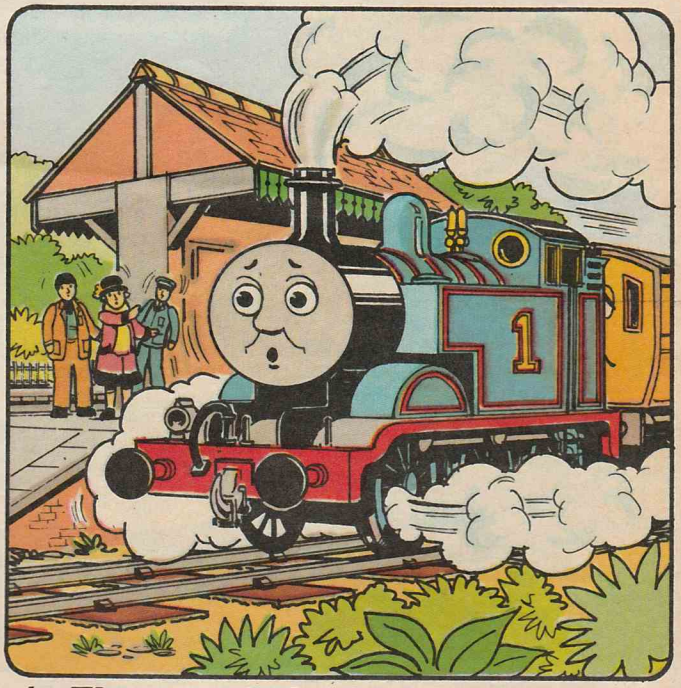


3. Duck already knew Percy and soon made friends with Toby and Bertie. Terence the Tractor gave him a big welcome too. "Take good care of Thomas's coaches," he said.

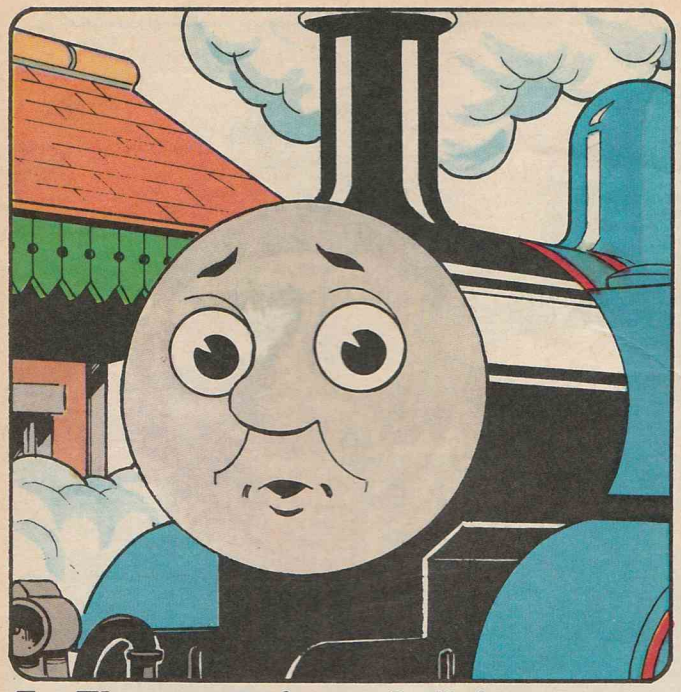


4. Duck was very gentle with the coaches. Annie and Clarabel were impressed. "Such nice manners," they told each other. "It really is a pleasure going with him."

5. When Thomas came back, Annie and Clarabel told him how well Duck had managed. Thomas was so pleased to be home that he forgot to be jealous of Duck.

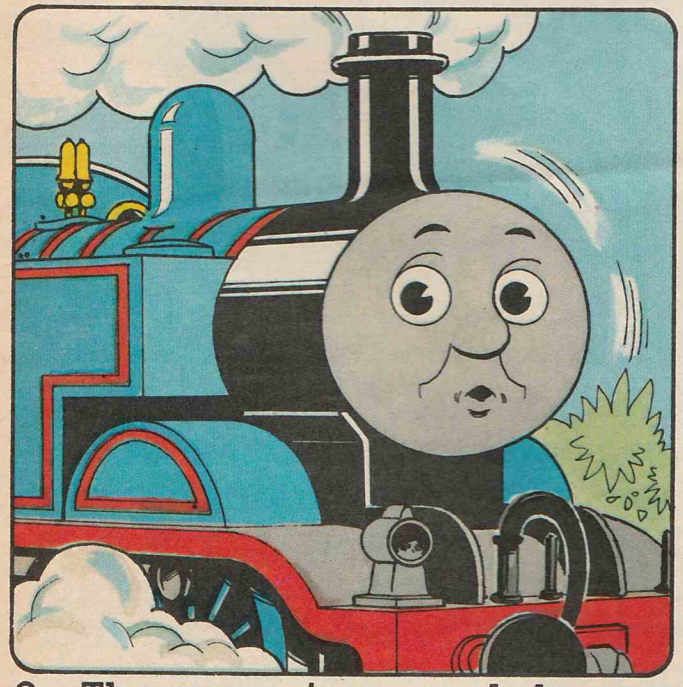


6. Thomas's handbrake was very stiff after the works. It made his brakes seem like they were hard on when they were not. As a result, he often over-ran the platform.

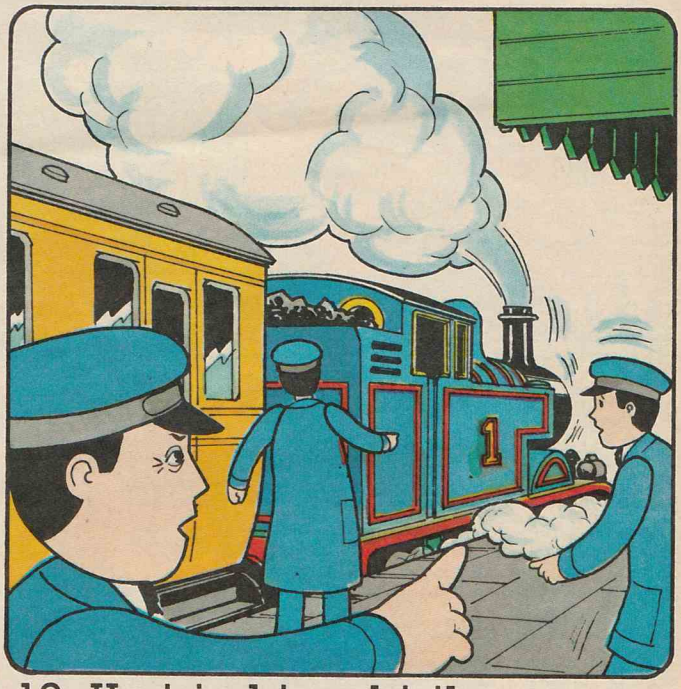


7. Thomas found this most embarrassing. Gradually his Driver and Fireman learnt to be extra careful. But one day his Fireman was ill and a relief man took his place.

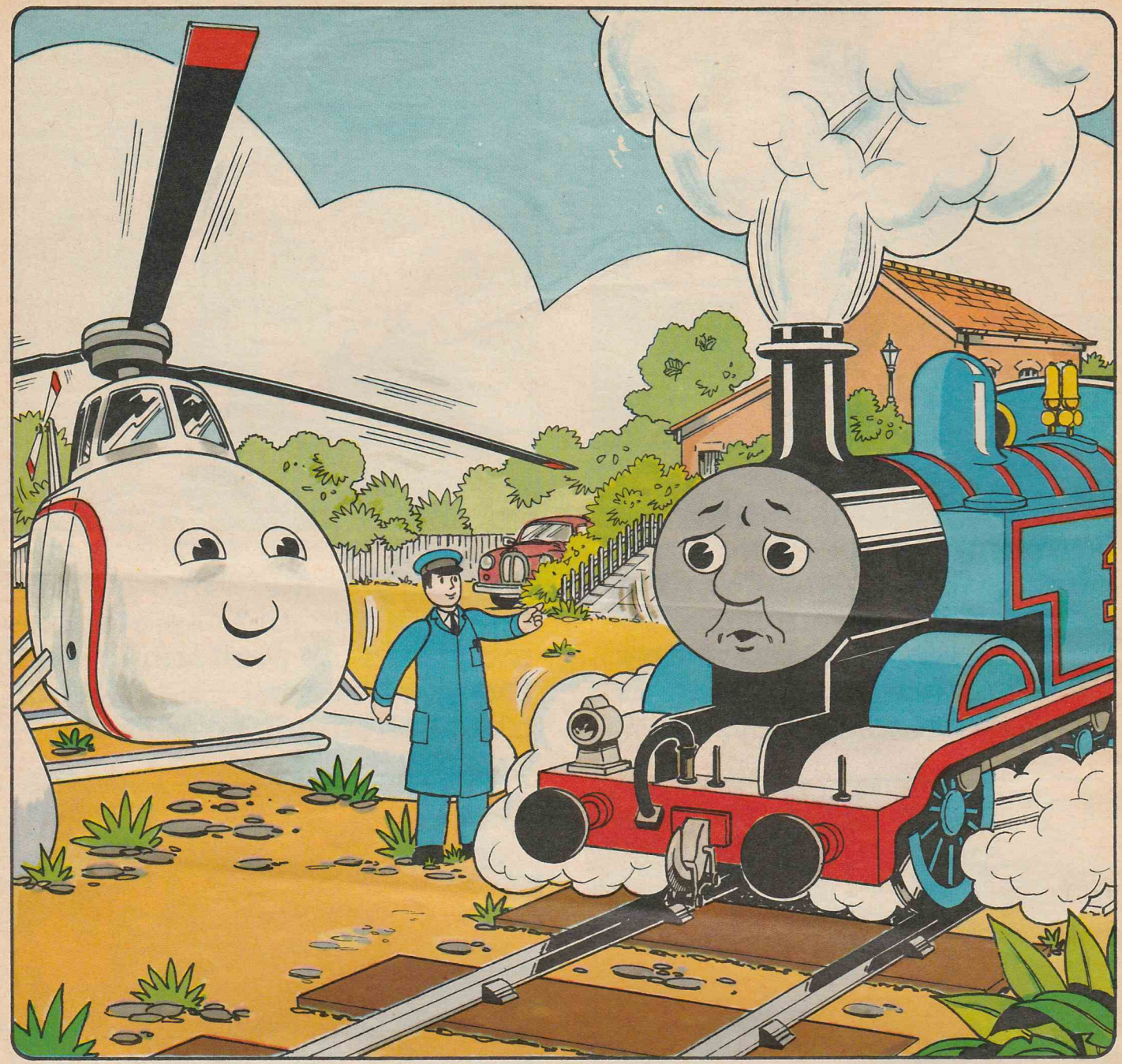
8. The Fireman fastened the coupling and joined Thomas's Driver and the Stationmaster on the platform to wait for passengers. He forgot about Thomas's handbrake.



9. Thomas simmered happily, but his brakes were not hard on. Suddenly he felt his wheels begin to move. He couldn't stop without his Driver and Fireman.



10. He tried to whistle a warning, but he couldn't do that either. The Fireman, Driver, Guard and passengers were stranded on the platform. Thomas kept going.



11. The alarm went down the line. "Stop the runaway!" There, ready for action, was Harold the Helicopter. The Inspector had made a plan, and together they took off into the sky. Thomas was tiring. As he neared the next station, he saw Harold land. He entered the platform slowly enough for the Inspector to act.

12. Judging his moment, the Inspector scrambled into the cab and screwed the brake hard on. Thomas stopped at last. Both he and the Inspector were very relieved. Then they thanked Harold. "Glad to be of service," said Harold. "Whew!" said the Inspector. "We must not let this happen again!" Wearily Thomas agreed.

THE END

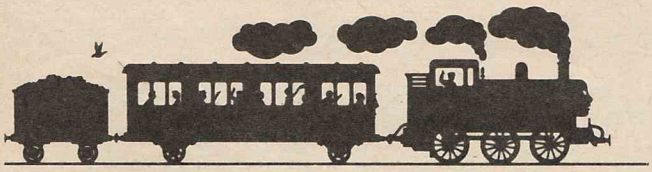
In our next issue: Pop goes the diesel!

HEARD THE NEWS?

This splendid poster magazine is in the shops now!

Opening up into a delightful, full colour poster, it's the perfect way to bring the charm of Thomas and his friends to your bedroom, classroom, playgroup – even your kitchen!

On the back you'll find all sorts of interesting facts about your favourite engines, some valuable information about the Fat Controller, a big puzzle – and lots of splendid pictures!



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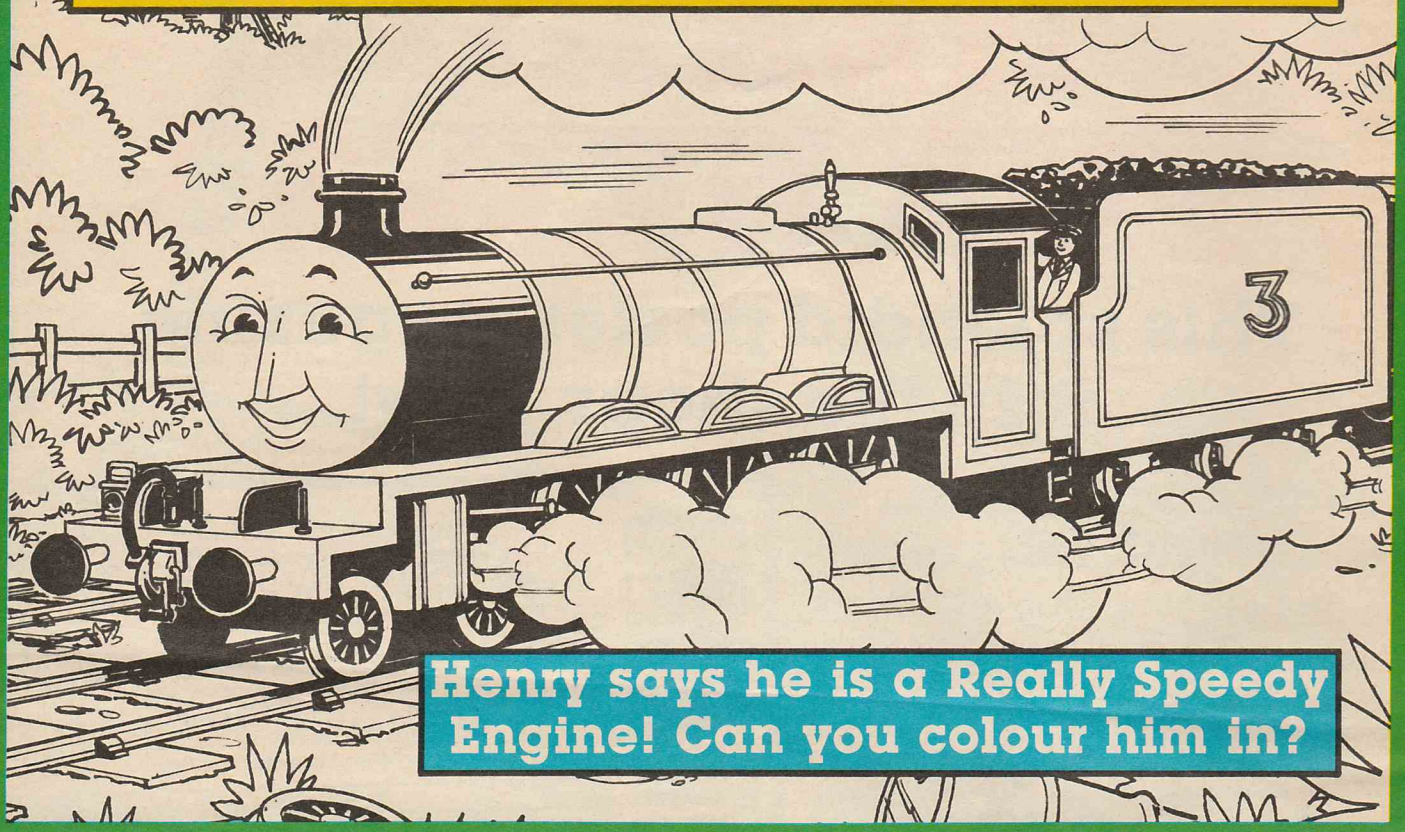
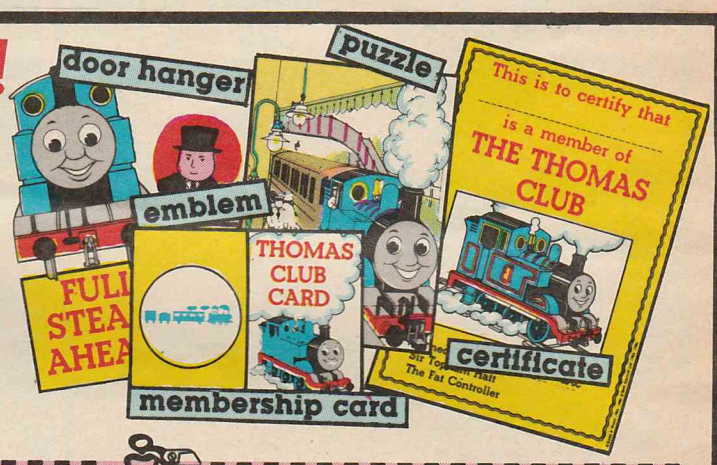
COLOURING TIME!



Henry says he is a Really Speedy Engine! Can you colour him in?

News of a great offer!

Take out a subscription to *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends* and have every issue sent straight to your home every fortnight!



What's more, if you do not already belong to the *Thomas Club*, you will automatically become an immediate member and your exciting Club Pack will be sent to you too!

It costs £9.00 including postage and packing to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for one year. Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.00 to: *Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.*

Please allow 28 days delivery of your first magazine and Club Pack.

I should like to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for one year and enclose cheque/postal order for £9.00 to include postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member of the **Thomas Club** if I do not already belong!

Name.....

Age..... **Birthday**.....

Address.....

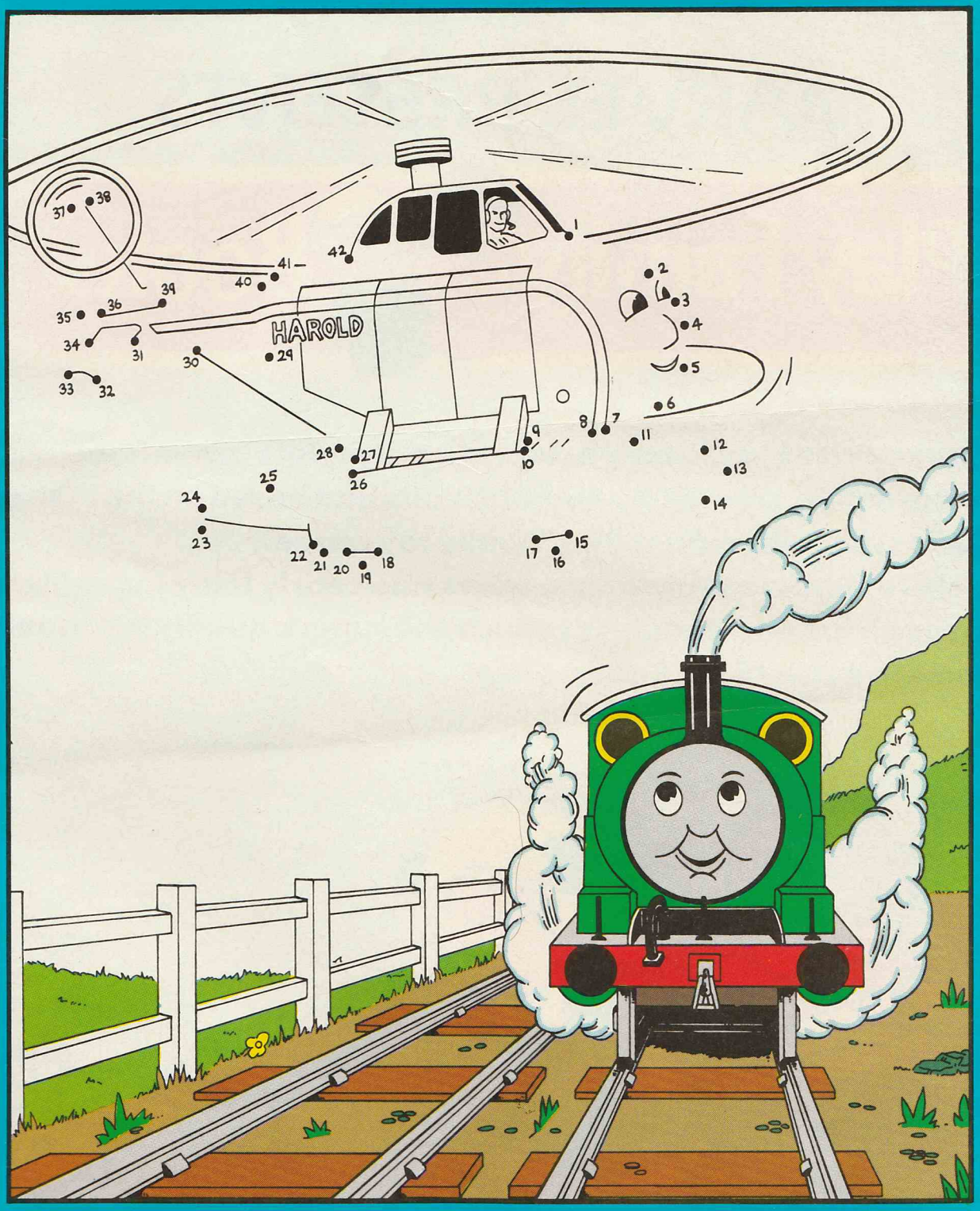
.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

Make your cheque or postal order payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

JOIN THE DOTS!

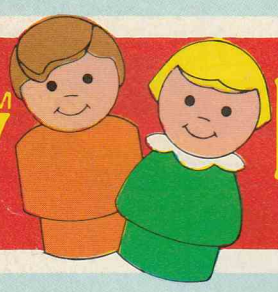


Who is flying over Percy? Join the dots to see if you are right – and then you can finish colouring in the picture! Peep! Peep!

Fisher-Price®

MARVEL PRESENTS

Play Family™ Books



Fisher-Price Play Family Books are a complete pre-school programme, created by Marvel Books and based on the highly successful Fisher-Price Play Family toy range.

This extensive programme offers basic early learning skills through fun and play, and reflects the superb quality you have come to expect from Fisher-Price.

Fisher - Price Play Family™ help your child to learn